

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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PASS USDA/FAS/NOVOTNY/US-USSR SECRETARIAT AND ERS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, UR

SUBJECT: U.S. SPRING WHEAT TEAM REPORT

1. TEAM REPORT ON THEIR OBSERVATIONS IN THE NEW LANDS
BETWEEN JULY 22 AND AUGUST 4 FOLLOWS:

29 "SUMMARY. (A) PROSPECTS FOR AVERAGE TO ABOVE AVERAGE
YIELDS OF SPRING WHEAT AND FEED GRAINS IN THE FIVE REGIONS
OF THE NEW LANDS OF THE USSR VISITED BY THE SPRING GRAIN
STUDY TEAM WERE REPORTED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE TOUR ON
AUGUST 4.

(B) IN SPITE OF MAY AND JUNE TEMPERATURES WARMER THAN
NORMAL, WHICH ADVERSELY AFFECTED SOME EARLY SPRING-SEEDED
CROP AND BELOW AVERAGE PRECIPITATION, LATE JUNE AND EARLY
JULY RAINS WERE IDEAL FOR THE FLOWERING AND FILLING OF HEADS.
THE LATER SEEDED GRAIN -- MAY 15-25 --DID NOT SUFFER FROM
MOISTURE STRESS AND KERNAL-FILL APPEARS TO BE BETTER THAN
AVERAGE FOR SOME REGIONS.

(C) INCREASED USE OF PHOSPHATE FERTILIZERS IS AIDING CROP
YIELDS TOGETHER WITH WIDESPREAD APPLICATION OF SNOW RE-
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TENTION PRACTICES, WHICH STORE MOISTURE FOR CROP DEVELOP-

MENT, HAS BENEFITED CROPS.

3. KUSTANAY OBLAST VISITED JULY 22-24, ESTIMATED HARVEST AUGUST 20; SOVIET ESTIMATE YIELD 15-16 CENT/HECTARE; TEAM ESTIMATE 17 C/H. CONDITIONS VARIABLE, CURRENT SOIL MOISTURE ADEQUATE. NORTH PART REGION SOIL MOISTURE LACKING. DEVELOPMENT FLOWER TO 1/2 KERNEL.

4. TSELINOGRAD VISITED JULY 25-26, ESTIMATED HARVEST AUGUST 19; SOVIET ESTIMATE, YIELD 14/15 CENT/HECTARE; TEAM ESTIMATE 12-13 C/H. MOISTURE SHORT TO ADEQUATE OVER WIDE AREA. DEVELOPMENT 1/2 TO 3/4 KERNEL. NO EVIDENCE DROUGHT STRESS. CORN UNDER SOME STRESS.

5. KOKCHETAV VISITED JULY 27-28, ESTIMATED HARVEST AUGUST 23; SOVIET ESTIMATE, YIELD 13-15; TEAM ESTIMATE 15-16 C/H. STRONG POSSIBILITY OF ABOVE AVERAGE GRAIN YIELDS. MOISTURE ADEQUATE. LATENESS MAY BE PROBLEM. GRAIN 1/4 TO 3/4 KERNEL STAGE. FORAGE CROP OUTLOOK ABOVE AVERAGE.

6. NOVOSIBIRSK VISITED JULY 30 - AUGUST 2, ESTIMATED HARVEST AUGUST 8 TO SEPTEMBER 1; SOVIET ESTIMATE, YIELD 13/15C/H; TEAM ESTIMATE 17-18 C/H. OUTLOOK GOOD. WIDE RANGE IN DEVELOPMENT FROM FLOWERING TO MID-DOUGH MAKES FOR HIGH POSSIBLE FROST HAZARD. ADEQUATE MOISTURE. FORAGE CROPS BENEFITTED FROM LATE RAINS AND ABOVE AVERAGE YIELDS BEING HARVESTED.

7. ORENBURG VISITED AUGUST 3-4, ESTIMATED HARVEST NOW. SOVIET ESTIMATE, YIELD 15; TEAM ESTIMATE 21 C/H. NINETY PERCENT WHEAT AND BARLEY IN SWATH. SOME SPROUTING AND SPOILAGE FROM RECENT RAINS. THRESHING 40 PERCENT COMPLETE. PLAN TO COMPLETE HARVEST WEEK TO TEN DAYS GOOD WEATHER."

8. COMMENT: CLOSING AG. MIN. MEETING ATTENDED ONLY BY BURYAKOV, AS WAS KICKOFF SESSION. UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS MADE TO OBTAIN FROM HIM QUANTITATIVE OR DEFINITIVE STATEMENTS ON TOTAL GRAIN CROP OUTLOOK; AREAS IN NEW LANDS WHERE CROPS MIGHT BE POOR AND HARVEST SITUATION. HE WOULD ONLY SAY, IN SUBSTANCE, THAT CROPS LOOKED GOOD IN GENERAL, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUT THAT A DIFFICULT HARVEST IS AHEAD, SPECIFYING DELAY "SHORT STEM" (PROBABLY LODGING) COMBING PROBLEM AND POSSIBILITY OF FROST DAMAGE. TEAM, INCIDENTALLY, DISCOUNTED DANGER OF EXTENSIVE DAMAGE FROM FROST IN NEW LANDS OBSERVED. TEAM TRAVELLED CONSIDERABLE DISTANCES AT EACH MAJOR STOP BY CAR, AVERAGING POSSIBLY 250-300 KM.

9. TEAM ETA IN WASHINGTON UNCHANGED, I.E., AUGUST 9TH,

WASHINGTON NATIONAL AT 9:28 PM, VIA NATIONAL #491.

10. TRAVEL NOTE SUBMITTED FOR PANASUK TRAVEL AUGUST 15-20
TO PAVLODAR AND BARNAUL ON AUGUST 3.
STOESSEL

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